

## ABSTRACT

The herein disclosed invention stimulates competition between service providers  
5 for traffic and facilitates a service provider's and a consumer's ability to make economic  
choices between competing telecommunication carriers. In this method and system,  
telecommunication switches route calls in accordance with economic incentives resulting  
from a bidding process between participating telecommunication carriers (Carriers),  
administered by a bidding service provider through operation of a central processor, at  
10 computer referred to as a bidding moderator (Moderator). The technology required to  
facilitate forward delivery transactions, in which a buyer and seller agree to the terms of a  
transaction today but schedule actual delivery for a future time, would be helpful to end  
users, resellers and Carriers. The Moderator can facilitate such transactions by  
processing requests for end users or resellers (as buyers) for telecommunication services  
15 to be delivered by Carriers in the future. In order to provide the Moderator with  
sufficient information to process such a request, the buyer enters the information  
describing the request on a software-derived template and transmits such information to  
the Moderator. In order not to require each Buyer to establish a separate billing  
arrangement with each Carrier taking part in the bidding process, a central billing  
20 arrangement is advantageous.